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04-24289 (E)

1. Society for Threatened Peoples

(Special consultative status granted 1993)

Introduction

The Society for Threatened Peoples is an international human rights organization with national sections in Germany (approx. 7,200 members), Luxembourg (approx. 120 members), Italy (approx. 20 members), South-Tyrol (150 members), Austria (approx. 600 members). Switzerland (approx. 800 members) and Bosnia and Herzegovina (approx. 200 members). The main focus of our work is the fight against genocide and discrimination against cultures, languages and religions of threatened minorities and nationalities through the use of press releases, conferences, vigils, talks with parliamentarians and politicians. We make information available for the media and try to attract the attention of the international public. Our archive has directories on several hundred threatened groups and minorities; it is one of the largest documentation centres of this kind in Europe.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or conferences and other United Nations meetings

1994

Commission on Human Rights — Sub commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities — Working Group on Indigenous Populations, 18 to 29 July 1994, Geneva (12 persons)

Commission on Human Rights — Sub commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, forty-sixth session 1 to 26 August 1994, Geneva (2 persons)

One oral statement on the situation of the Kanaka Maoli, Hawaii

International Conference on Population and Development, 5 to 13 September 1994, Cairo (1 person)

1995

Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development, third session, 16 to 27 January 1995, New York (3 persons)

Commission on Human Rights, fifty-first session, 30 January to 10 March 1995, Geneva (25 persons)

Oral statement on the struggle for self-determination of the Nagas (India)

Oral statement on the human rights situation in Tibet (China)

Oral statement on the human rights situation in Chechnya (Russian Federation)

Written statement on the human rights situation in Tibet (China)

World Summit for Social Development, 6 to 12 March 1995, Copenhagen (3 persons)

Commission on Narcotic Drugs, thirty-eighth session, 14 to 23 March 1995, Vienna (2 persons)

Oral statement on the meaning of the traditional cultivation of cocoa for the indigenous population in Bolivia

Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 28 March to 7 April 1995, Berlin (2 persons)

Economic and Social Council, substantive session, 6 June to 28 July 1995, Geneva (1 person)

Commission on Human Rights — Sub commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, forty-seventh session, 31 July to 25 August 1995, Geneva (20 persons)

Oral statement on the struggle for self-determination of the Nagas (India)

Oral statement on the human rights situation in Chechnya (Russian Federation)

Oral statement on the human rights situation of the Crimean Tartars (Russian Federation)

Oral statement on the human rights situation in Tibet (China)

Oral statement on the human rights situation of the Chittagong Hill People (India)

Oral statement on the human rights violations against the Ogoni People (Nigeria)

Commission on Human Rights — Sub commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities — Working Group on Indigenous Populations, 17 to 28 July 1995, Geneva (8 persons)

1996

Commission on Human Rights, fifty-second session, 18 March to 26 April 1996, Geneva (20 persons)

Oral statement on freedom of religion in Tibet (China, item 18)

Oral statement on the human rights situation in Chechnya (Russian Federation, item 10)

Oral statement on the self-determination of indigenous people in general (item 7)

Oral statement on the draft declaration on rights of indigenous peoples

Commission on Narcotic Drugs, thirty-ninth session, 16 to 25 April 1996, Vienna (2 persons)

Oral statement on the theme "Cocoa cultivation, international agreements and anti-drug legislation" (Bolivia)

Commission on Human Rights — Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, forty-eighth session, July/August 1996 (4 weeks), Geneva (10 persons)

Oral statement on the human rights situation in Tibet (China)

Oral statement on the struggle for self-determination of the Nagas (India)

Written statement on the human rights situation in Tibet (China)

Commission on Human Rights — Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities — Working Group on Indigenous Populations, fourteenth session, July 1996 (1 week), Geneva (30 persons)

Oral statement on the situation of the indigenous minorities in India in general

1997

Commission on Human Rights, fifty-third session, 10 March to 18 April 1997, Geneva (26 persons)

Oral statement on the human rights situation in Tibet (China)

Oral statement on the struggle for self-determination of the Nagas (India)

Oral statement on the human rights situation in Bougainville (Indonesia)

Oral statement on the human rights situation in Assam (India)

Oral statement on the human rights situation of the Caucasian minority (Russian Federation)

Oral statement on the human rights situation in Nagomo-Bergkarabach

Written statement on the human rights situation in Tibet

Commission on Narcotic Drugs, fortieth session, 18 to 27 March 1997, Vienna (2 persons)

Oral statement on the meaning of the traditional cultivation of cocoa for the indigenous population in Columbia

Commission on Narcotic Drugs acting as Preparatory Body for the twentieth special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to the fight against the illicit production, sale, demand,

traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities, first meeting, 26 and 27 March 1997, Vienna (2 persons)

Commission on Human Rights — Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities — Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, 20 to 29 May 1997, Geneva (1 person)

Commission on Narcotic Drugs acting as Preparatory Body for the twentieth special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to the fight against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities, first informal open-ended meeting, 7 to 9 July 1997, Vienna (3 persons)

Oral statement on the theme "Biodiversity and the politics of drugs"

Commission on Human Rights — Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, forty-ninth session, 4 to 29 August 1997, Geneva (21 persons)

Oral statement on the situation of the indigenous people in India

Oral statement on the human rights situation of the South Molukkans (Indonesia)

Oral statement on the struggle for self-determination of the Nagas (India)

Two oral statements on the human rights situation in Tibet

Written statement on the question of freedom of religion in Tibet (China, item 11)

Commission on Human Rights — Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities — Working Group on Indigenous Populations, 28 July to 1 August 1997, Geneva (9 persons)

Commission on Narcotic Drugs acting as Preparatory Body for the twentieth special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to the fight against the illicit production, sale, demand,

traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities, second informal open-ended meeting, 7 to 9 October 1997, Vienna (3 persons)

Oral Statement on the theme "Human rights and drug politics in Peru"

Human Rights Committee — Intercessional Working Group on a Draft Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 27 October to 7 November 1997 (7 persons)

Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change — seventh session of the subsidiary body for implementation, 20 to 29 October 1997, Bonn (3 persons)

Commission on Narcotic Drugs acting as Preparatory Body for the twentieth special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to the fight against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities, third informal open-ended meeting, 3 to 5 December 1997, Vienna (3 persons)

Oral statement on the theme "Drugs and alternative development in Columbia"

Other relevant activities

Activities of the Society for Threatened Peoples in relation to the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People:

Events marking the opening of the International Decade in Bonn and Berlin in December 1994, including reception by the President of the German Parliament, the organization of a press conference as well as a podium discussion.

Political and financial support of the self-organization of the Adivasi indigenous group, advising the Adivasi representatives at the United Nations in Geneva (at the session of the Commission on Human Rights).

Campaign for the ratification of ILO Convention 169 by Germany and other Western European States.

2. Centrist Democrat International

(Special consultative status granted 1950)

Nature and objectives

Centrist Democrat International (CDI) (formerly Christian Democratic International) is an organization of political parties and organizations inspired by integral Christian humanism. Its main values and objectives are as follows: promotion and defence of human rights and national and international peace; recognition of the social nature of the human being and defence of basic social institutions, particularly the family; promotion and defence of democracy and democratic institutions; promotion of integral human development, with respect for nature and the preservation of natural resources; application of subsidiarity, solidarity and justice through the social market economy.

In order to respond adequately to the new realities which have emerged since the end of the cold war and the establishment of democracy in a considerable number of nations, CDI launched an internal reform process which resulted in the adoption, on 8 and 9 June 1995, of a basic document on principles and values of Christian democracy and of new statutes. During the period covered by this

report, CDI expanded its geographical scope; its membership increased from 67 members at the beginning of 1994 to 76 members at the end of 1997.

Relations with the United Nations and participation in its activities

CDI representatives have been accredited every year to the three United Nations headquarters (New York, Geneva and Vienna), the regional economic commissions and the Department of Public Information at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

CDI has participated in United Nations conferences, including the World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen, March 1995) and the conferences on women's rights (Beijing, 1995) and population (Cairo, September 1994). It has also participated in the annual sessions of the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva, where it has delivered statements on various agenda items.

It has participated in the conference and annual meeting of non-governmental organizations accredited to the United Nations in New York.

The central theme of the Eleventh General Assembly of CDI (Brussels, 8 and 9 June 1995) was the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations.

On 16 April 1994, the Deputy Secretary-General of CDI, together with the Secretaries-General of Socialist International and Liberal International, visited the Secretary-General of the United Nations in New York to express their organizations' support for the World Summit for Social Development, which was to be held the following year in Copenhagen.

The President of CDI met in Geneva on 13 February 1997 with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Director-General of the International Labour Office (ILO) and the Deputy Director-General for ILO Activities in Europe.

International conferences

CDI has held conferences on the following topics, which coincide with the objectives of the United Nations or its subsidiary bodies: "Humanism and democracy in the twenty-first century" (Santiago, 8 and 9 January 1994), at which the President of Chile made a statement; "An economy with a human face" (Manila, 19 to 23 November 1995), at which the main speaker was the President of the Philippines; "Human development in Latin America" (Santiago, 22 to 24 August 1996), at which the President of Chile was the main speaker; "Political development and religious currents in the Mediterranean basin" (Barcelona, 26 and 27 February 1997), at which representatives of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and of the President of the European Union, respectively, made statements; "Globalization and National Identity" (Paris, 6 November 1997), at which the main speaker was the President of Romania.

Promotion of peace and democracy

This is considered to be one of the organization's primary responsibilities and it has received ongoing attention. To this end, the President, Vice-Presidents and Secretary-General of CDI have visited the following countries: Argentina, Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Panama, Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Chile, Belgium,

the Netherlands, Spain, France, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Italy, Austria, Lithuania, Poland, Slovenia, Hungary, Romania, Norway, Israel, Palestine, Tunisia, Morocco, Jordan and the Philippines.

There they met with member parties and organizations of CDI, if any, participated in conferences on topics related to the principles and objectives of CDI and, whenever possible, met with government authorities, religious leaders and leaders of civil society. CDI has issued political statements and press releases on the following topics: elections in Equatorial Guinea; condemnation of the attempted coup d'état in Paraguay; need to advance towards unity in Europe; situation in southern Lebanon; presidential elections in Uganda; presidential elections in the Russian Federation; elections in Nicaragua; situation in the former Zaire; democracy for Myanmar; Oslo Agreement on peace in Guatemala; lifting of the embargo on the shipment of food and medicines to Cuba; proposals of CDI to promote positive change in Cuba; solidarity with the people of Yugoslavia and with the democratization initiatives of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe; threats to democracy in Colombia.

Documents and publications

CDI has streamlined its publications in order to adapt to the new international reality and to its new working methods. Its publications include the CDI newsletter (six issues published in French, English and Spanish) and the proceedings of its international conferences.

3. 3. Transnational Radical Party

(General consultative status granted in 1995)

The Transnational Radical Party (TRP) is a non-violent international political organization founded in **1955.**

Since its affiliation with the Council, TRP has followed issues related to human rights, international drug trafficking, international criminal law and linguistic rights at sessions of several United Nations Commissions, such as the Commission on Human Rights and the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

Relations with other international non-governmental organizations

Since **1998,** TRP has been a member of the Conference on Non-governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (CONGO), and recently was among the founders of the New York Non-governmental Organization Committee on Narcotics and Substance Abuse. TRP is also a member of the Vienna NGO Committee on Narcotics and Substance Abuse.

During the past four years TRP has collaborated with several other non-governmental organizations promoting the establishment of informal networks and coalitions to better educate the public on the work of the United Nations and to optimize joint activities regarding specific issues. In **1995,** TRP was among the founders of the NGO Coalition for an international Criminal Court, and in **1997,** it promoted the creation of the Coalition for an International Language. Both coalitions produce newsletters and participate in United Nations activities related to their mandates.

Participation in United Nations Commissions

Commission on Human Rights

At the fifty-second, fifty-third and fifty-fourth sessions TRP delivered written and oral statements on a variety of items, including the question of the human rights of all persons subjected to any form of detention or imprisonment; further promotion and encouragement of human rights and fundamental freedoms; violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in any part of the world, with particular reference to colonial and other dependent countries and territories; the human rights of all persons subjected to any form of detention or imprisonment; the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief; the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities; the rights of the child; racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance; indigenous issues; and conscientious objection to military service.

Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities

At the forty-seventh, forty-eighth, forty-ninth and fiftieth sessions, TRP delivered written or oral statements on the following items: the question of the violation of human rights and fundamental freedom, including policies of racial discrimination and segregation and of apartheid, in all countries, with particular reference to colonial and other dependent countries and territories; freedom of movement: population displacements; the realization of economic, social and cultural rights; the realization of the right to development; the human rights of women; the human rights of indigenous peoples; protection of minorities; administration of justice and the human rights of detainees; and elimination of all forms of intolerance and of discrimination based on religion and belief.

Commission on the Status of Women

At the forty-second session TRP delivered statements on the Beijing Platform for Action and women in armed conflict.

Commission on Narcotic Drugs acting as Preparatory Body for the Special Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations

TRP presented written and oral statements on the following: measures to enhance the control and monitoring of precursors frequently used in the manufacture of illicit drugs; promotion of judicial cooperation; the fight against money-laundering; and the eradication of illicit narcotic crops and promotion of alternative development programmes.

Committee on Non-governmental Organizations

TRP submitted a proposal for an agenda item on eventual experimentation of an international auxiliary language at the June 1996 session.

Participation in other United Nations conferences and forums

TRP sent accredited representatives to the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (HABITAT **11) (3-14** June 1996).

TRP circulated literature on its United Nations-related activities to the fiftieth and fifty-first annual DPIMGO Conferences.

At the special session of the General Assembly on Drugs, TRP delivered a statement. It also took active part in all non-governmental activities such **as** panel discussions and round tables on drug-related issues and distributed a 20-page briefing paper.

TRP attended meetings of the Preparatory Committee for the Establishment of an International Criminal Court and the United Nations Diplomatic Conference on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court.

Other relevant activities

To better achieve its objectives **TRP** has launched several ad hoc campaigns aimed at targeting civil society, the media, and decision makers all over the world.

Its major United Nations-related campaigns were "No Peace Without Justice", for issues concerning the establishment of an effective system of international criminal justice, and "Hands Off Cain", for the adoption by the General Assembly of a resolution on an international moratorium of capital executions. The final stages of the "No Peace Without Justice" campaign were a series of international conferences held in various capitals of the world **to** urge international support for the proposed court. In order to facilitate the widest possible participation in the work of the Conference on an International Criminal Court, inexpensive fares and special accommodation rates were found for delegates from the least developed countries and some 30 young experts in international law and international humanitarian law were enabled to participate in the various working groups. During the Conference, TRP organized a series of public events.

TRP operates a web site (www.radicalparty.org) containing the latest action alerts, TRP's position papers and news on the different issues set by its congressional motions.

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4. International Press Institute (IPI)

(Special consultative status granted 1993)

Introductory statement

The International Press Institute (IPI) is a global network of editors, media executives and leading journalists dedicated to protecting and furthering freedom of the press and improving the standards and practices of journalism. Founded in October 1950 by 34 editors from 15 countries, today IPI has grown into a truly global organization with over 2,000 members in 110 countries. Even though the size of the organization has changed, its philosophy remains the same: that freedom of expression is the right that protects all other rights and that this freedom needs to be promoted and defended.

The Institute's membership is made up of editors and media executives working for some of the world's most respected media outlets. IPI has also established a new membership category, "IPI leading journalists", which is open to heads of media departments, bureau chiefs, correspondents and others. Moreover, in several countries, IPI members have established national committees that support the Institute in its work to improve the situation for the media. IPI is a member of the World Press Freedom Committee.

International Press Institute consultative activities with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies:

January 1997: Paris. An IPI representative attended the third consultative committee meeting in Paris to prepare the United Nations UNESCO European Seminar on Promoting Independent and

Pluralistic Media, which was held in September 1997 in Sofia. IPI also provided UNESCO with background information on the situation of the European media.

18-20 May 1997: New York. The IPI Director attended the meeting of the Coordinating Committee of Press Freedom Organizations, of which IPI is a member. The meeting was organized to coincide with the May session of the Committee on Information, during which influential non-aligned countries were once again expected to promote the new world information and communication order (NWICO). The ministers of information of nearly 30 non-aligned countries, at a conference held in Abuja, Nigeria from 3 to 6 September 1996, had called for the revival of the concept of this new world order. In their declaration, the ministers claimed that developed nations were employing their media to disseminate false and distorted information on events taking place in developing countries — the same argument used in the original drive for NWICO in the 1970s.

At a meeting with Samir Sanbar, Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information, the Coordinating Committee was assured that the issue of NWICO would not come up at their 1997 meetings. However, another plan, a United Nations world media conference, is still a possibility and could become more concrete at any given time. The Committee promised to watch closely any developments.

27 May 1998: Moscow. IPI members meeting in Moscow for the IPI annual World Congress and forty-seventh General Assembly issued a resolution urging authorities around the world to reaffirm article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Declaration. At the same event, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mary Robinson, spoke about fifty years of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

December 1998: Vienna. The Institute, in cooperation with Pressclub Concordia and the Austrian newspaper publishers association, marked the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by inviting Henrikas Yushkiavitshus, Assistant Director-General for Communication, Information and Informatics of UNESCO to present a lecture on new threats to freedom of opinion and expression. The lecture was attended by Austrian editors, foreign correspondents, diplomats and parliamentarians from the various political parties of Austria. The event was presided over by Heinz Fischer, President of the Austrian Parliament, who spoke about Austria's commitment to human rights.

21 February 1999: Washington, D.C. The Institute's Director attended a meeting of the Coordinating Committee of Press Freedom Organizations in Washington, D.C. The meeting adopted the following resolution on the successor to Federico Mayor, Director-General of UNESCO:

We, the undersigned representatives of the Coordinating Committee of Press Freedom Organizations, urge that the member States of UNESCO, in their search for a successor to Director-General Federico Mayor, when his term ends in fall 1999, require of any candidate for selection as Director-General that he or she makes a positive, unambiguous and public commitment to reaffirm and emphasise freedom of expression, including freedom of the press. Such a commitment to press freedom is founded in the UNESCO Constitution, and in the five regional declarations (Windhoek, Almaty, Santiago de Chile, Sana'a and Sofia) on promoting independent and pluralistic media that were endorsed by UNESCO's General Conferences.

1 March 1999: Paris. The IPI Director attended an NGO consultation meeting on the societal impact of the new information and communication technologies at UNESCO headquarters in Paris. UNESCO convened the informal meeting to gather the views and expectations of some of its main partners,

especially those working in close cooperation with the communication, information and informatics sector.

3 May 2000: Boston, Massachusetts. Louise Fréchette, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, addressed over 400 participants in the IPI annual World Congress at the closing ceremony on World Press Freedom Day (3 May).

4-5 May 2000: Geneva, Switzerland. An IPI representative attended a round table on media in conflict and post-conflict areas organized in Geneva by the UNESCO Programme for Freedom of Expression, Democracy and Peace. Representatives of intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations met to discuss how to combat war propaganda and hate speech without detriment to freedom of the press and the editorial independence of local media. A charter of recommendations for future action was drafted by the participants at the end of the two-day meeting.

13-15 November: Paris. The IPI Director took part in INFOethics 2000 on the Right to Universal Access to Information in the Twenty-first Century at UNESCO headquarters in Paris. The main themes of the conference were the role of public authorities in access to information; the fair use concept in the information society; and the protection of human dignity in the digital age. The declared aim of the meeting was to examine the possibility of building up an international consensus on ethical and legal principles applicable in cyberspace and to further consolidate the new information society programme of UNESCO.

5. Islamic Relief

(Special consultative status granted 1993)

Introduction

The present report outlines the activities of Islamic Relief in particular its contribution to the work of the United Nations.

Islamic Relief is an international relief and development charity aimed at alleviating the suffering of the world's poorest nations. It is an independent, non-political organization established in 1984. Since then Islamic Relief has grown rapidly and currently spans four continents, initiating emergency and long-term development projects in some of the poorest communities around the world. With its headquarters in Birmingham, United Kingdom, Islamic Relief has nine fund-raising offices registered in Belgium, France, Germany, Mauritius, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States and eleven field offices in Afghanistan, Albania, Bangladesh, Bosnia, Egypt, Kosova, Mali, Pakistan, Palestine, the Russian Federation, Kabardin-Balkar Republic) and the Sudan. Islamic Relief specializes in the following sectors: education and vocational training; health and nutrition; water and sanitation; income generation; orphans' support; disaster preparedness; and emergency relief.

The organization has no relationship with any Government bearing on its management or the orientation of its activities. However, Islamic Relief may accept donations or services from governmental agencies wishing to support certain projects. For example, the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom has financially supported Islamic Relief development and emergency relief projects in Bangladesh, Mali and Pakistan.

Participation in United Nations conferences and meetings

Since 1997 Islamic Relief has participated in numerous conferences and meetings. From May to July 1999 the Islamic Relief field office in Albania participated in various coordination meetings held by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Shkodra, northern Albania to discuss the conditions in the refugee camps and the security of refugees and expatriate staff. In February 2000 Islamic Relief's Emergency Relief Coordinator was present in various meetings in Moscow with UNHCR, the World Food Programme (WFP), UNICEF, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) and the World Health Organization (WHO). Those meetings concerned the Chechen crisis that had erupted four months before. The same representative participated in meetings during May 2000 in Nazran with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to explore the humanitarian situation for displaced Chechens in the Republic of Ingushetia. In 2000, Islamic Relief participated in other conferences, meetings and workshops in Timbuktu and Bamako, Mali, and in Senegal organized by UNHCR, WFP and UNESCO, including the education for all conference. During the period 1998 to 2000, numerous meetings were held with UNHCR in Bosnia concerning the support for their return programme. On 8 November 2000 Islamic Relief met with WFP in Quetta, Pakistan, for the allocation of wheat for the provinces of Kandahar and Helmand. The following month, on 1 December 2000, WFP formally requested participation in a city-wide food distribution after Islamic Relief submitted a survey/assessment report.

Cooperation with United Nations programmes, bodies and specialized agencies

Kosova

- Mine awareness contract with UNICEF: child to child training, 1999 to 2000
- Mine awareness training contract United Nations Mine-Action Centre: imam and imam wives' training, 1999 to 2000
- Shelter programme contract for returnees UNHCR: 1999 to 2000

Bosnia

- Management Support Services training programme for Bosnian non-governmental organizations, funded by UNHCR in 1999
- Cooperation with UNHCR coordinated return programme to Eastern Bosnia. Islamic Relief built over 200 homes and three schools

Chechnya

- From November 2000 to date, Islamic Relief has been working as an implementing partner for WFP in the Republic of Ingushetia.

Pakistan

- Islamic Relief has been working as a leading implementing partner of UNHCR in refugee camps since 2000. The organization has also been managing two refugee camps on behalf of UNHCR and is also acting in charge of the Chaman staging camp.

Mali

In 1997 Islamic Relief officers agreed on a plan with UNHCR officers to assist in the reintegration of repatriates and displaced people in Gourma-Rharous. UNHCR agreed to contribute 193,763 United States dollars (US$) towards the cost of the project. Islamic Relief officers also participated with WFP representatives to improve cooperation on the ground.

Since 2000 Islamic Relief has worked in collaboration with the following agencies and offices:

- UNESCO, as part of the NGO consortium for the Education for All agenda
- WFP (Mali), in the evaluation mission of the WFP female strategy programme
- WFP (Mali), in the evaluation mission for the school canteens project

Sudan

- UNICEF has supported numerous projects, such as a mother and child health-care and feeding centre in El Obeid, from 1997 to date by providing vaccines, rehydration salts and Unimix for children who suffer from malnutrition
- The vocational training programme and the adult literacy programme in El Obeid were also supported by the World Food Programme through its food-for-work scheme from 1997 onward

Other relevant activities with the United Nations

Islamic Relief worked in the following co-financed projects between 1997 and 1999:

- With UNHCR, a community reintegration project for repatriation in northern Mali
- With WFP, food-for-work activities for the repatriate and resident communities in the circle of Gourma-Rharous, in the region of Timbuktu, Mali
- With WFP, food-for-training activities for the repatriate and resident population in the circle of Gourma-Rharous, in the region of Timbuktu, Mali
- With WFP, the school canteens support project for improvement to girls education in the circle of Gourma-Rharous in the region of Timbuktu, Mali
- In 1997 Islamic Relief became a member of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (CONGO)
- Islamic Relief sought advice from the World Health Organization in 1997 about the tuberculosis crisis in Chechnya, in order to market a proposal for the treatment of victims in the area
- In the same year, at the request of the Geneva office of UNHCR, Islamic Relief submitted information on its operational capacity in the form of a questionnaire

Membership of Islamic Relief, by region

Africa

1.	Mali	1 institution
2.	Sudan	1 institution

Asia

3.	Azerbaijan	1 institution
4.	Bangladesh	1 institution
5.	Kazakhstan	1 institution
6.	Mauritius	1 institution
7.	Pakistan	1 institution
8.	Palestine	1 institution
9.	Russian Federation (Kabardin-Balkar Republic)	1 institution

Europe

10.	Albania	1 institution
11.	Belgium	1 institution
12.	Bosnia	1 institution
13.	France	1 institution
14.	Germany	1 institution

15. Kosova 1 institution

16. Netherlands 1 institution

17. Sweden 1 institution

18. Switzerland 1 institution

19. United Kingdom 1 institution

North America

20. United States of America 1 institution

6. Human Rights Watch

(Special consultative status granted in 1993)

Introduction

Human Rights Watch (HRW) is dedicated to the promotion and protection of human rights around the world. HRW conducts regular, systematic investigations of human rights abuses in some seventy countries. It stands with victims and activists to prevent discrimination, uphold political freedom, protect those suffering from inhumane conduct during wartime, and bring offenders to justice.

Human Rights Watch is the largest international human rights organization based in the United States. It began in 1978 with the founding of its Europe and Central Asia division (then known as Helsinki Watch). Today, HRW is divided into regional divisions and thematic programmes. Regional divisions are: Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe and Central Asia, and the Middle East and North

Africa. Thematic programmes include arms, children's rights, women's rights, HIV/AIDS, refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants, economic and social rights, business and human rights, and racism.

Human Rights Watch is based in New York and has offices in Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, San Francisco, London, Brussels, Moscow, Hong Kong, Freetown (Sierra Leone), Kigali, Bujumbura, Tashkent, Tbilisi, and Geneva. Temporary offices are set up in regions where HRW is conducting intensive investigations. More than 180 employees of diverse nationalities and backgrounds work in these offices around the world.

HRW is an independent NGO, supported by contributions from private individuals and foundations worldwide. It does not accept government funds, either directly or indirectly.

Participation in the activities of the Economic and Social Council, its subsidiary bodies, and other United Nations meetings

Throughout this reporting period (1997-2000), HRW representatives participated in each session of the Commission of Human Rights (CHR), the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and the Commission on the Status of Women. Each year, HRW made oral interventions and submitted written statements to the CHR. It also monitored the work and attended the meetings of several of CHR Working Groups. HRW's United Nations representative served as the Vice-Chair of the International Non-Governmental Organizations Committee on Human Rights.

Representatives of HRW attended and participated in several United Nations World Conferences, including Rio +5 (New York 1997) and the United Nations Conference on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court (Rome 1998). The Secretary-General invited HRW to participate in the launching of the United Nations Global Compact (New York 2000).

Cooperation with United Nations programmes and bodies and specialized agencies

In July 1997, HRW was invited by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to participate in the UNDP Conference on Good Governance in Addis Ababa. The HRW representative was asked to advise the UNDP Administrator during the process of preparing the Human Development Report 2000, the theme of which was human rights. Human Rights Watch researchers have regularly provided advice to the Secretary-General's team in charge of the Global Compact.

HRW frequently provided information to the mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights and various treaty bodies. In particular, HRW representatives regularly attended sessions of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, submitting information and providing responses to Committee inquiries.

HRW attached great importance to the work of the ad hoc International Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and Rwanda (ICTR). HRW maintained contact with the staffs of the two tribunals and shared reports and evidence collected by HRW researchers. HRW expert testimony and legal analysis was used by the ICTR to convict several *genocidaires*. HRW staff members have met repeatedly with the Chief Prosecutor of ICTY and ICTR to discuss efforts to investigate and prosecute rape as a war crime, witness protection, and a range of other issues.

HRW also attached great importance to the creation of an International Criminal Court. HRW attended and was deeply involved in the United Nations Conference on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court (Rome 1998). In addition, HRW actively lobbied United Nations member states to ratify the Rome Statute.

HRW frequently consulted with UNICEF on a number of issues, including child soldiers, child labour and police violence against street children. HRW provided human rights materials to other

United Nations agencies and departments, such as UNHCR, UNDP and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

Preparation of papers/materials at the request of the Economic and Social Council or its subsidiary bodies

After participating in the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Regional Conference to address the problems of refugees, internally displaced persons, other forms of involuntary displacement and returnees in the Commonwealth of Independent States and relevant neighbouring States in 1996, HRW was invited by UNHCR to partake in an editorial group assigned to draft a NGO Guide to International Standards on Refugees and Human Rights. This group met in Geneva in April and July of 1997.

In 2000, the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs invited HRW to present its views on the possible inclusion of children under eighteen in the jurisdiction of the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

Action in implementation of United Nations resolutions

HRW regularly advocated for the implementation of human rights resolutions adopted by the Commission on Human Rights and the General Assembly. HRW conducted this advocacy in various international forums (i.e. United Nations, European Union, Organization of American States) and within the countries that it regularly monitors.

In 1997, HRW was a co-recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize as a founding and leading member of the Campaign to Ban Landmines for its efforts on behalf of the adoption and implementation of the

Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction.

Consultations and cooperation with officials of the United Nations Secretariat

HRW maintained contact with the High Commissioner for Human Rights the High Commissioner for Refugees and the Office of the Secretary-General, keeping them abreast of HRW's activities and presenting recommendations on various issues. HRW frequently consulted the different departments of the Secretariat, in particular the NGO Section, and participated in numerous meetings at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

HRW met and shared its reports with the Chairs of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention and the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances and with various thematic and country Special Rapporteurs and independent experts.

Because HRW was a founding member of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, a HRW representative was invited in September 1997 to join Secretary-General Kofi Annan and other world leaders at a press conference at United Nations Headquarters in New York marking the conclusion of negotiations of the ban on landmine treaty.

7. International League for Human Rights

(Special consultative status granted 1946)

Introductory statement

The International League for Human Rights was founded in 1942 and has worked for over 60 years to bring human rights issues to the attention of the world community through the United

Nations. With the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as its platform, the League assists its partners in the United States of America and abroad to bring human rights issues before the United Nations and other multinational bodies. Since the earliest years of the United Nations, the League has been in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, and is also accredited to the International Labour Organization, the Council of Europe and the African Commission on Human Rights.

The League is a non-governmental non-profit organization that is financed by foundations and individual contributors. It is governed by an international Governing Council of 36 members and receives advice from an International Experts Committee of 14 members. The League has a network of affiliates around the world with whom it works to promote human rights through the United Nations. The League also has a number of partners with whom it works on specific projects. The League publishes regular bulletins and working papers about its activities and reports on specific human rights situations. Each year, while the General Assembly was in session (1998-2001), the League held regular briefings on topics relevant to the Third Committee for delegates, United Nations staff, and NGOs.

The League's staff in New York represents the League at briefings and meetings relevant to human rights at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The League also sends representatives to specialized United Nations meetings in Geneva and elsewhere.

Participation in the work of the Council and its subsidiary bodies and conferences

The League has a long-standing interest in promoting the work and advancement of human rights through the United Nations. From 1998 to 2001, the League participated annually in the ongoing work of the Commission on Human Rights. Each year, together with some of its affiliates, the League attended the Third Committee debates on human rights and the sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women (1998-2001).

The League took part in the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance in 2001. During preparatory work for the Conference (2000-2001) the League sponsored a series of briefings and conferences in Warsaw and Moscow. In August-September 2001, the League led a delegation of 40 NGOs from the Russian Federation, Eastern Europe, North America, and West Africa, to participate in the World Conference. The League provided a platform for the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict and the League's Africa Program director to hold a public briefing on racism and children.

League representatives have attended the sessions of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Committee against Torture and have made oral and written presentations to the members of these bodies (1998-2001). The League has also made oral and written submissions to the Commission on Human Rights and to the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities (1998-2001) on human rights situations and religious intolerance. The League submits relevant country reports to the members of the Human Rights Committee (1999, 2001). The League frequently organizes conferences and meetings on topics of relevance to the United Nations agenda. In 2001, the League

supported a series of conferences on women's rights in Nigeria; sponsored Afghan women's NGO delegations at the United Nations; and supported local and international women's groups providing information on the Russian Federation and Uzbekistan to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

The League regularly submits information obtained through its missions, its projects, and its affiliate and partners network to the Centre for Human Rights, including the specialized machinery. In particular, the League has submitted documentation to the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance (1998, 1999), and the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief (1998, 2001). In 2001, the League worked with the Special Representative on Human Rights Defenders whom we briefed and helped prepare for her visit to Central Asia.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

The League has long supported the efforts of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Secretary-General to increase the capacity of the United Nations to advocate on behalf of children, most recently those in armed conflict. The League strongly supported the appointment of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and has maintained close contacts with that office. Recently, the League assisted in the planning of his visit to the Republic of Chechnya of the Russian Federation. The League's representatives have participated in consultations regarding NGO status and an officer of the League has served as its representative on the Human Rights Committee of the Conference of NGOs in consultative relationship with the United Nations (CONGO).

Other relevant activities

For decades, the League has focused on "defending the defenders", assisting those who advocate for the rights of others, and has met with United Nations officials and NGO leaders to promote adoption of the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, adopted in 1998. During 1998-2001, the League has worked with the United Nations, and other relevant bodies, offering comments on official government reports submitted in compliance with international treaties and covenants, presented reports of human rights violations and proposed remedies. The League has undertaken interventions with Governments and international bodies regarding human rights cases and issues concerning countries including Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, China, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Nigeria, the Russian Federation, Sierra Leone and Uzbekistan. The League attended relevant United Nations meetings and sponsored oral interventions and briefings and assisted affiliates and partners in presenting their briefs.

The League held a series of conferences in 1999 and 2000 on improving the work of field missions of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, which drew upon the expertise of specialists who had served in United Nations field missions (publication enclosed). The League also participated in the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing by sponsoring participation from women's delegations overseas in the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. The League regularly takes part in Department of Public Information conferences such as

the recent conference on post-conflict societies. League members or affiliates have taken part in the meetings on the formation of the International Criminal Court.

8. World Muslim Congress

(General consultative status granted 1967)

Introduction

The World Muslim Congress (WMC), which was founded in 1926, is the oldest international Muslim organization. It has been in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council since 1967.

WMC fully believes in the Charter of the United Nations and works for world peace on the basis of universal brotherhood, justice and promotion of human rights. It is a non-political organization and strives for interfaith dialogue for the purposes of removing the impediments to international understanding.

As for its constitution, WMC has a President and two Vice-Presidents. The Secretary-General and Finance Secretary are elected for a period of five years by the General Council. WMC has a large number of branches in the world.

Its finances are contributions from members and its budget is audited every year by a recognized firm of chartered accountants. It has permanent representatives to the Commission on Human Rights, Geneva, at United Nations Headquarters, New York, and to the Economic and Social Council, Bangkok.

The President of WMC (Motamar Al Glam Al Islami) and its Secretary-General (Dr. Hamid Ahmed Bin Rifaie) attended an interfaith meeting on 4 and 5 July 2000 in Cairo with a delegation

from the Vatican. The same delegation went to Vatican City on 21 and 22 February 2001 and had extensive discussions on bringing interfaith peace and understanding.

The same delegation attended another meeting on 3 and 4 July 2001 which was held under the auspices of the Coordination Committee. This was the 7th meeting of the Coordination Committee.

The President of WMC and the Assistant Secretary-General participated in a three-day meeting in Cairo called by the Organization of Churches of the Middle East.

The WMC Secretary-General attended an Organization of the Islamic Conference Conference of Foreign Ministers in Doha from 12 to 14 November 2000 and presented a memorandum thereat; and attended the meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime from 4 to 15 October 1999 at Vienna.

The WMC Secretary-General delivered a keynote address on the challenges of globalization at United States University Hall, Japan, in May 2000; and attended a four-day Organization of the Islamic Conference Conference of Foreign Ministers in Malaysia from 27 to 30 June 2000.

The Secretary-General submitted a written statement to the fifty-seventh session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific held in Bangkok, 19 to 25 April 2001; hosted a regional Conference of NGOs in collaboration with the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat in Islamabad on 30 August 2000; and organized donations for those affected by flash floods in coastal areas of Sindh.

The Secretary-General also organized donations for the Christians affected by flash floods in Islamabad, Pakistan in 2001.

WMC participated through its Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Dr. Malik Sardar Khan, in the Seoul International Conference of NGOs, Seoul, on 16 October 1999; the UNICEF

Conference entitled "Global Movement for Children and Youth", 21 May 2000; the Millennium Forum, United Nations, 22-26 May 2000; the fifty-third Annual DPI/NGO Conference on Global solidarity: the way to peace and international cooperation, 20-30 August 2000, and the reception, on 29 August 2000; the World Peace Conference of International Religious and Spiritual Leaders, New York, 29-31 August 2000; and the "Millennium World Peace and Harmony" Interfaith Dialogue, 7 October 2000, Tacoma Park, Maryland.

WMC participated in the following sessions of the Economic and Social Council in Geneva through Mr. Maqbool Ahmad:

(a) Substantive session of 1999, 5-30 July 1999, where its representative made an oral presentation under agenda items 14 (a) "Advancement of women", and 14 (h) "Human rights questions";

(b) Substantive session of 2001, 2-27 July 2001.

WMC participated in the meetings of the following bodies:

(a) Commission on Human Rights:

(i) Fifty-fourth session, 16 March-24 April 1998;

(ii) Fifty-fifth session, 22 March-30 April 1999;

(iii) Fifty-sixth session, 20 March-28 April 2000;

(iv) Fifty-seventh session, 19 March-27 April 2001;

(b) Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights:

(i) Fiftieth session, 3-28 August 1998;

(ii) Fifty-first session, 2-27 August 1999;

(iii) Fifty-sixth session, 31 July-18 August 2000;

(iv) Fifty-third session, 30 July-17 August 2001;

(c) Working Group on Minorities:

(i) Fourth session, 25-29 May 1998;

(ii) Fifth session, 25-31 May 1999;

(iii) Sixth session, 22-26 May 2000;

(iv) Seventh session, 14-18 May 2001;

(d) Seventh workshop on regional cooperation for the protection of human rights in the Asia-Pacific region, New Delhi, 16-18 February 1999;

(e) First, second and third meetings of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, 2001.

WMC monthly publication

WMC publishes a monthly magazine for the promotion of the objectives of the United Nations and its allied agencies. Its circulation is worldwide.

Other publications

These comprise:

(a) A written statement of the WMC Secretary-General (Motamar Al Alam Al Islami) submitted to the fifty-seventh session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific held in Bangkok, 19-25 April 2001;

(b) A memorandum presented by Raja Muhammad Zafarul Haq, Secretary-General, WMC, at the twenty-seventh Organization of the Islamic Conference Conference of Foreign Ministers, Malaysia;

(c) Publications on Islam and cultural issues; Islam and the current world; and Islam and the rights of citizens.

9. Interfaith International*

(Special consultative status granted in 1998)

Aims and purposes of organisation:

- The organisation will support religious principles which advocate peace, tolerance and co-existence among members of different religions
- The organisation will support and sustain communications between members of different faiths, beliefs and religions for the sake of humanity in general
- The organisation will contest all extremist groups which use religion as a means of terrorism, intimidation or exploitation.
- The organisation will condemn all injustices of falsely incriminating religious groups by baseless charges.
- The organisation will contend against all kinds of apartheid and segregation either by race, colour, nationality or religion. The organisation will contest any systematic violation of human rights in the realm of religious belief
- The organisation will encourage that religious practices be carried on within the laws of the land, not contradict health and moral order, and not harm or undermine other religions

* Report is being issued without formal editing.

During the period under review, our major efforts have been directed towards a multi- religious NGO approach to conflict-solving within and between states, and especially within the context of the United Nations. Interfaith International provides a platform for its members and invited consultants to raise (both outside and within the United Nations) the issues of discrimination related to religious belonging. Our activities in the period 1998-2001 have been concentrated mainly upon holding conferences (in London) and representing our constituency in Geneva at the sessions of the Commission on Human Rights and its Sub-Commission. In particular, during the period 1998-2001 our organisation participated actively in the preparation for the World Conference Against Racism in Durban (2001). Our aim was to elaborate means to combat religious intolerance and ethic discrimination and our members expressed their opinions on this at Durban in several NGO Forum "commissions".

With a majority of our members being Muslim (Sunnite and Shi'a) it appears normal that Interfaith International concern itself with situations where Muslims are suffering from human rights violations. A common multi-religious approach has been made to these problems. Our organisation has supported the United Nations principles regarding Iraq and the Saddam regime. Many of our members are Shi'a religious and lay persons from Iraq and Iraqi exiles living abroad. In interventions we have pointed out the continuing violation of the human rights of Iraqis by the Saddam regime. This work implements one of the practical objectives of our organisation, namely *"the organisation will favour the preservation of holy places and holy worship against any kind of attack either physical or psychological"* and *"the organisation will work in favour of preservation of religious heritages"* and *"encourage associations for the protection of rights of different faith, beliefs and religions"*.

The members of our organisation in their individual capacities have worked within their own countries for religious toleration, ethnic understanding and against racism and xenophobia. During the reporting period the membership included Muslims (Sunni and Shi'a), Hindus, Jews, Buddhists and Christians as well as Indigenous religions and those of no specific religion. The President on numerous occasions (during 1998-2001) was invited to inter-religious sessions in London to promote inter-religious common activities within the United Kingdom. He has also promoted interfaith activities in his capacity as general secretary of WABIL (World Al-U1-Bayt Islamic League).

The only noteworthy changes are as follows: previously every applicant for membership in Interfaith International needed a sponsor from within the organisation and two supporting votes of members now by decision of the Executive Committee in February 2001, every new member must be accepted by at least 7 out of the 9 members of the Executive Committee. This decision effectively preserves the organisation as an NGO under no particular religion, movement (political or otherwise) or sect. The organization has grown during the reporting period to over 100 members.

Participation in/contribution to/ the Work of the United Nations

Meetings of ECOSOC and subsidiary bodies: Participation at *every session* of the Commission of Human Rights and its Sub Commission on Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in Geneva during the reporting period, beginning with the Sub-Commission in August 1998. Members of our delegation (usually 15-20 in number) have made oral statements before the Commission and Sub-Commission. These have concerned human rights of minorities; violation of human rights in countries (especially Iraq, Bahrain, Pakistan, Kashmir, Sudan, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, India); rights of woman and children; economic, social and cultural rights (in Iraq, India, Kashmir, Afghanistan, Pakistan etc.) and on religious intolerance. During the sessions, Interfaith International has organised mid-day

"briefings" on situations in Kashmir and Pakistan, Sikhs in India, "Falun Gong" and on topics related to religious tolerance. During these briefings, a wide range of opinions were expressed and solutions to conflict situations sought. Other NGOs participated actively in these meetings. Interfaith International has co-sponsored some "briefings" in the sessions of the Commission on Human Rights and its Sub-Commission, on the issue of Palestine and Israel and participated in various briefings on situations in African and Latin American countries.

Concerning the above-mentioned interventions and "briefings", members of Interfaith International have consulted with governmental delegations, seeking clarifications. Such governments included Bahrain, Sri Lanka, Iraq, Morocco, Afghanistan, U.S.A. etc.

Non members of Interfaith International have been included in our delegations during Commission and Sub-Commission meetings, upon invitation or their request (these have included human rights activists from many countries including Indonesia, India, Pakistan, Kashmir, Canada, U.S.A., and representatives of indigenous peoples).

Participation in United Nations conferences or special events: Interfaith International participated actively in preparations for the World Conference Against Racism in Durban, South Africa. Our organisation was member of the "Interim Steering Group" which organised the first meeting for NGOs on May 1, 2000 in preparation for the NGO Forum at Durban. It participated in every Geneva "Preparatory Committee" for the WCAR, and were members (by election) of the International Co-ordinating Council for the NGO Forum.

Interfaith International had a delegation of 15 members and associates at Durban, and participated actively in the NGO Forum's "Commission on Religious Intolerance" (our Secretary-General was member of the drafting committee for the proposed resolutions of that Commission as

well as "liaison" for that Commission with other Commissions. The President of Interfaith International was the panellist representing Islam during presentations of the various religious bodies at that Commission) Members of the Interfaith International delegation spoke before the WCAR on the topic of inter-religious tolerance in Bangladesh. Interfaith International participated actively in meetings at Durban with the U.N. Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion and Belief, Mr. Abdelfattah Amor. Our Secretary General spoke at a panel on Islamophobia (organised by the Al-Khoei Foundation) during the WCAR in Durban.

Other activities of Interfaith International officers related to the WCAR in Durban:

The President and Secretary General and other officers organised three meetings in the United Kingdom in preparation for the WCAR in Durban. Our organisation was also represented at the European Preparatory Committee for Durban held in Strasbourg and NGO Preparatory Committees in Tehran and Dakar. Interfaith International is an associate member of CONGO and a member of the Geneva-based CONGO *NGO Committee Against Racism* (sub-committee of the CONGO NGO Committee on Human Rights). Beginning in autumn 2001 Interfaith International held the secretariat of this *Committee Against Racism*. Members of this Committee have been responsible for presenting some "briefings" during the Commission on Human Rights and its Sub-Commission in Geneva. Also our organisation has been an active member of the CONGO *NGO Committee on Freedom of Religion and Belief* as well as the CONGO *NGO Committee on the Status of Women* during the reporting period.

Activities in cooperation with other bodies or specialised agencies in the United Nations system: our work has been concentrated especially on NGO contributions to the Commission on Human Rights and its Sub-Commission and on preparations for the World Conference Against Racism at

Durban. Interfaith International has also participated in common activities with the CONGO-related Committees mentioned in the previous paragraph. Within these latter, Interfaith International has had indirect contact with ILO, WHO, UNESCO, UNICEF etc. as information received from those specialized agencies has been discussed and acted upon.

Any special activities in support of the overall goals and objectives of the United Nations. Interfaith International has actively promoted an *international (United Nations-based) ethic* within the Interfaith dialogue process both within and outside the United Nations. It has actively supported the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Religion and Belief in his work and participated with him in several meetings at the World Conference Against Racism (Durban) and in meetings in Geneva. Interfaith International has promoted international law and international Covenants in its activities on behalf of conflict-resolution in various countries (e.g. Bahrain, Iraq, Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, etc.). In keeping with the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights, Interfaith International has provided a platform for victims of human rights violations in many countries. Interfaith International has actively supported the Indigenous Peoples for the recognition of their rights.

10. World Organization against Torture*

(Special consultative status granted in 1998)

1. The Geneva-based World Organization against Torture (OMCT) today constitutes the main international coalition of non-governmental organizations dedicated to fighting torture, summary executions, enforced disappearances, arbitrary detention, psychiatric confinement for political purposes and other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. When the SOS-

Torture network was set up in 1986, the majority of its 48 member organizations were based in industrialized countries and tended to promote and defend human rights in third world countries, rather than concerning themselves with respect for these rights in their own countries. An awareness of this imbalance led the Executive Council and the International Secretariat of OMCT to set priorities and decide on two steps: to expand the SOS-Torture network in areas where its action was most needed and to set up two delegations, one in Europe, the other in the United States. Sixteen years later, the network comprises 259 member organizations in 87 countries, most of these organizations being located in Africa, Latin America and Asia.

2. OMCT always participates very actively in the annual sessions of the Commission on Human Rights. Between 1998 and 2001, OMCT presented statements on the following agenda items:

1998: item 3 (Organization of the work of the session); item 9 (Further promotion and encouragement of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the question of the programme and methods of work of the Commission; (a) Alternative approaches and ways and means within the United Nations system for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms); item 10 (Question of the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in any part of the world); item 19 (Drafting of a declaration on the right and responsibility of individuals, groups and organs of society to promote and protect universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms) and item 20 (Rights of the child);

1999: item 3 (Organization of the work of the session); item 8 (Question of the violation of human rights in the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine); item 9 (Question of the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in any part of the world); item 11 (Civil and political rights, including the questions of: (a) Torture and detention); item 12 (Integration of the human rights of

women and the gender perspective: (a) Violence against women); item 13 (Rights of the child) and item 17 (Promotion and protection of human rights: (b) Human rights defenders);

2000: item 8 (Question of the violation of human rights in the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine); item 9 (Question of the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in any part of the world); item 11 (Civil and political rights, including the questions of: (a) Torture and detention); item 12 (Integration of the human rights of women and the gender perspective: (a) Violence against women); item 13 (Rights of the child) and item 17 (Promotion and protection of human rights: (b) Human rights defenders);

2001: item 8 (Question of the violation of human rights in the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine); item 9 (Question of the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in any part of the world); item 10 (Economic, social and cultural rights); item 11 (Civil and political rights, including the questions of: (a) Torture and detention); item 12 (Integration of the human rights of women and the gender perspective: (a) Violence against women); item 13 (Rights of the child) and item 17 (Promotion and protection of human rights: (b) Human rights defenders).

At the sessions of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (formerly the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities) held between 1998 and 2001, OMCT likewise presented statements under the following agenda items:

1998: item 4 (The realization of economic, social and cultural rights); item 5 (The implementation of the human rights of women) and item 11 (Situation regarding the promotion, full realization and protection of the rights of children and youth);

1999: item 5 (The implementation of human rights with regard to women) and item 9 (The administration of justice and human rights);

2000: item 9 (The administration of justice and human rights);

2001: item 2 (Question of the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms); item 6 (Other human rights issues: (a) Women and human rights).

The organization also made a statement to the working group on the working methods and activities of transnational corporations.

3. In its daily struggle against torture and other serious violations of human rights, OMCT collaborates closely with United Nations conventional and extra-conventional mechanisms. As far as conventional mechanisms are concerned, OMCT participates actively in the sessions of the various treaty-monitoring bodies. Accordingly, between 1998 and 2001, OMCT presented more than 50 reports to various United Nations committees (Human Rights Committee, Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Committee against Torture, Committee on the Rights of the Child, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination). Representatives of the organization have regularly taken part in meetings of the pre-sessional working group of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, at which they have presented the conclusions and recommendations contained in the organization's reports. In addition, working documents were submitted to the Committee during the days of general discussion devoted to State violence against children (September 2000) and violence against children within the family and in school (September 2001). Similarly, representatives of the organization took part in sessions of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, at which the conclusions and recommendations of OMCT reports were presented to the experts. Furthermore OMCT (by itself or together with other organizations) has arranged briefings for the experts of the Committee against Torture. The purpose of submitting reports and participating in committee meetings is to assist the

experts when they consider reports by States. Moreover, OMCT has produced several documents containing analyses of the definition of torture (article 1 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment) in relation to violence against children, the integration of a gender perspective and infringements of economic, social and cultural rights.

OMCT, by virtue of its mandate, works very closely with the Special Procedures of the Commission on Human Rights. The urgent statements circulated by OMCT are therefore sent as a matter of course to the thematic mechanisms concerned, namely the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights defenders, the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers, the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture and the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its cause and consequences. These statements are also forwarded to the country mechanisms as appropriate.

4. (i)OMCT, through its dealings with the member organizations of the SOS-Torture network, not only promotes the conveying of information from these organizations to the international system, but also ensures that all the pertinent resolutions adopted by the various bodies are circulated to the organizations concerned. This is done either by means of publications, or through training sessions in various continents.

(ii) The International Secretariat of OMCT is in daily contact with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. Every day, it sends urgent requests for intervention to the mechanisms and receives from them requests for further information or replies from Governments. In addition to holding numerous meetings with United Nations representatives in the field, the

International Secretariat in Geneva collaborates extremely closely with all the officials of the Office of the High Commissioner. This fruitful collaboration is reflected in initiatives such as the International Conference on Children, Torture and Other Forms of Violence, which OMCT organized in Tampere from 27 to 30 November 2001. This conference was attended by Mrs. Mary Robinson, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr. Peter Burns, the Chairman of the Committee against Torture, Mr. Jacob Doek, Chairperson of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and many representatives of international institutions within the United Nations system.

(iii) In addition to the documents prepared for the Commission on Human Rights and the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and the alternative reports prepared for the treaty-monitoring committees (from 15 to 30, depending on the year), the Secretariat regularly draws up substantive documents on specific topics. For example, in the run-up to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, held in Durban (28 August-7 September 2001) and during the follow-up to this summit, OMCT published several documents concerning in particular criminal justice and racism. By way of a contribution to the special session of the United Nations General Assembly on Children (8-10 May 2002), OMCT also drafted several substantive documents, which were widely circulated.

(iv) Since 1986, OMCT's Urgent Assistance Programme to Victims of Torture has been given financial support from the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (UNVFVT). In 1999 and 2000, OMCT received backing from the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) in connection with the conducting of a worldwide survey on violence against women.

11. Association internationale des mouvements familiaux de formation rurale*

(Special consultative status granted in 1998)

1. Brief introductory statement recalling the aims and purposes of the organization

(i) Geographical membership: Since the admission of the Association internationale des mouvements familiaux de formation rurale (AIMFR) to special consultative status with the United Nations, membership has increased.

– In Latin America: Many rural training centres have been established in the following countries:

Brazil: The rural training centres are grouped into two organizations: The União Nacional das Escolas Familias Agricolas do Brasil (UNEFAB) (whose members include the Movimiento de Educação Promocional do Espirito Santo (MEPES), the Associação das Escolas das Comunidades e Familias Agricolas da Bahia (AECOFABA) and several isolated training centres) and the Associação Regional das Casas Familiares Rurais (ARCAFAR North and South). In September 2002, these two organizations decided to form a single Brazilian body and adopted the term "CEFFAs" for all centres using sandwich courses. There are currently 217 rural training centre associations using the titles Casa Familiar Rural (CFR) and Escola Familia Agricola (EFA).

Guatemala: Since the admission of AIMFR to special consultative status in 1998, the number of rural training centres has increased from 6 to 26.

Chile: There are 7 rural training centres using sandwich courses; together, they make up the Instituto de Educación Rural (IER).

* Report is being issued without formal editing.

Argentina: There are currently 38 training centres under the Asociación para la Promoción de Escuelas de la Familia Agricola (APEFA) and the Fondation Marzano.

Uruguay: There are 3 rural training centres under the Asociación Uruguaya de Escuelas Familiares Agrarias (AUEFA).

New projects are also under way in Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, El Salvador, Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic.

- In Africa: Like many other cooperation organizations, AIMFR has encountered many problems in Africa in recent years. This has not prevented it from maintaining a large number of rural training centres in the Central African Republic (6), Congo (5), Rwanda (4), Togo (24), Senegal (45) and Chad (4) and establishing new ones in Cameroon (5), Benin (3), Burkina Faso (2), Mauritius (1), Morocco (2) and Mali (1). Other centres have re-opened in Madagascar.
- In Asia: Since the admission of AIMFR to special consultative status in 1998, 4 rural training centres have been established in the Philippines and efforts to establish such centres are under way in Viet Nam.
- In North America: A rural training centre was established in the province of Quebec, Canada, in 2000.
- In Europe: There are currently over 500 rural training centres in Spain, France, Italy and Portugal. Relations are being established with several Eastern European countries, including Poland, Lithuania, Romania and Hungary.

(ii) Changes in sources of funding

From the financial point of view (resources and expenses), with the exception of membership dues and financing for a number of one-time activities, there has been no change in the Association's financial structure.

Through negotiation, AIMFR has expanded its training programmes and now offers an undergraduate degree (*licence*) in education (through sandwich courses) in cooperation with the University of Tours (France), the University of Lisbon (Portugal) and the University of Brasilia (Brazil).

(iii) Affiliation to an international NGO in consultative status

The Association has maintained relations with United Nations agencies, including the Economic and Social Council, FAO, UNESCO, UNICEF, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva.

(a) Economic and Social Council (New York) — Special consultative status

The Vice-President participated in: the May 1998 meeting of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, at which the granting of consultative status to additional organizations was discussed; the forty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women in March 1999; in July 1999, a meeting of the Council on the role of the United Nations in the twenty-first century, to which NGOs were invited, and a meeting of the Council with the European Union to discuss European social policy objectives for the period 2000-2015; the forty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women in March 2000; and the organizational session of the Council, held in New York, in January 2001 and January 2002.

(b) FAO (Rome) — Liaison status

The Vice-President participated in a November 1998 meeting, held in Rome, at which the programme of work of FAO for the next 15 years was prepared; and in the thirtieth session of the Conference and the one hundred and seventeenth session of the Council in November 1999. In February 2000, he met with the Director-General of FAO to discuss the participation of AIMFR in the "D" training programme of FAO. In November 2001, he attended the one hundred and twenty-first session of the Council.

(c) UNESCO (Paris) — Informal relations status

In September 1999, the Secretary-General of AIMFR, Gilbert Forgeard, participated in the launching of the International Year for the Culture of Peace (2000) campaign. In October 1999, he attended the thirtieth session of the General Conference.

(d) Council of Europe (Strasbourg) — Consultative status

(e) IFAD

During his February 2000 visit to FAO in Rome, the Vice-President of AIMFR, Aimé Caekelbergh, also met with FIDA officials.

2. Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or conferences and other United Nations meetings

See paragraph 1 above.

3. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

(a) AIMFR cooperated with FAO at the AIMFR World Congress on the theme "Let's Build our Future Together", held in Brussels on 22 and 23 November 2000; one-day workshops on training, solidarity and development were held (see attached report). The event was attended by 460 officials and young people from rural training centre associations of various countries throughout the world.

(b) AIMFR participated in various initiatives proposed at the FAO World Food Summit concerning the preparation of a charter on the right to food.

4. Other relevant activities

(i) Action in implementation of United Nations resolutions

See paragraph 3 (b) above on action in connection with the right to food.

(ii) Consultations and coordination with officials of the United Nations Secretariat

(iii) Preparation of papers and/or other material at the request of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies, or of the United Nations Secretariat

AIMFR submitted comments to the Assistant Secretary-General for External Relations regarding the report of the Secretary-General on arrangements and practices for the interaction of non-governmental organizations in all activities of the United Nations system (A/57/170), submitted to the United Nations General Assembly at its fifty-third session under item 58 of the provisional agenda.

(iv) Other examples of consultative and substantive activities, including financial assistance received from or given to the United Nations, field-level collaboration ...

AIMFR collaborated with FAO experts on the question of training for rural youths.

12. International Association for Religious Freedom*

(General consultative status granted in 1995)

1. Introduction

In 2000, the International Association for Religious Freedom (IARF) celebrated the centenary of its founding in Boston in May 1900 as an association of individuals and groups who share a commitment to work for freedom of religion or belief through interfaith understanding and Co-operation. At the end of 2002, the IARF had 100 member groups, 11 national chapters, plus an estimated 1,500 individual members in over 30 countries. Member groups have increased by some 20% since the submission of the last report (1995-1998), but individual membership as such has declined. The programmes of the IARF have been re-organized under the new International Council (Aug. 1999-2002), and the new General Secretary, who assumed office in April 2000. After a worldwide consultation of the membership, a Strategic Plan (2001-07), including an overall statement of purpose, was adopted by the Council in March 2001. The purpose is derived from Article 18 of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and is, in part, as follows: "The purpose of the International Association for Religious Freedom (IARF) is to work for freedom of religion and belief because it is a precious human right that potentially enables the best within our religious lives, or our search for truth or enlightenment, to flourish. It requires:

- *Freedom from oppressive interference or discrimination by the state, government or Society's institutions on the grounds of religion or belief*

* Report is being issued without formal editing.

- *Mutual understanding, respect and the promotion of harmony, or at least "tolerance", between communities or individuals of different religions or belief*
- *An essential accountability by religious communities to ensure that their own practices uphold the fundamental dignity and human rights of their members and others*

IARF's activities have been planned and supervised by regional offices, which, by 2002, were located in Bangalore (India), Budapest (Hungary), Dumaguette (Philippines), New York & Massachusetts (USA), and Tokyo (Japan). Oversight of these offices is managed by the organization's International Secretariat, which is based in Oxford, England. Financially, the IARF is principally supported by its membership, but has received one major project grant from the Rockefeller Foundation in the time period covered by this report.

2. ECOSOC Role & UN Interventions

The IARF received category II consultative status with ECOSOC in 1972 and general consultative status in 1995. It last submitted a quadrennial report (1995-98) in 1999. From 1996 until August 2002, the IARF has been represented at meetings of both the Commission on Human Rights and the Sub commission on the Promotion and the Protection of Human Rights in Geneva. IARF representatives expressed concern for situations and victims of religious persecution and intolerance at UN forums. Interventions made at the Commission on Human Rights during the years 1999-2002 were made on the following agenda items:

1999. Interventions on the question of the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms (item 9), on the question of religious intolerance as relates to civil and political rights (item 11e), on the

integration of the human rights of women (item 12), and on the question of minorities with reference to groups and particular individuals (item 14b).

2000: Interventions on all same items as above.

2001: Interventions on items 9, 11e, and 14b.

2002: Interventions on items 9, 14b and, additionally, on the rights of the child (point 13)

Interventions made at the Sub-Commission on Human Rights were on protection of minorities (item 8) in 1999 and on the violation of human rights (item 2) in 2000 and 2001.

3. Co-operation with UN Bodies: Supporting the Special Rapporteur

On 5th December 2001, the new IARF representative resident in Geneva, was instrumental in re-starting the Geneva Committee on Freedom of Religion or Belief and became its Secretary. One of the primary objectives of this committee is to support the work of he UN Special Rapporteur on questions of freedom of religion or belief. Meetings have been held approximately every six weeks since the end of 2001 and a Hearing with the Special Rapporteur and others was arranged at the 58th session of the Commission on Human Rights in April 2002. A particular effort has been made to encourage joint statements by NGOs both at the 58th session and in preparation for the 59th session. Co-operation with the work of the Special Rapporteur has involved regular meetings with the IARF representatives in Geneva, especially in relation to the "International Consultative Conference on School Education in Relation with Freedom of Religion and Belief, Tolerance, and Non-Discrimination," which was held in Madrid, Spain in November 2001. IARF also worked with the Special Rapporteur in December 2002 in the framework of a meeting sponsored by the *Oslo Coalition for Freedom of Religion or Belief*.

4. Other Activities in Support of the UN

In November 2001, IARF put considerable efforts into supporting activities to celebrate and promote the 20th Anniversary of the 1981 *UN Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance und Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief.* IARF's South Asia Coordinating Council organized, for example, a public function with prominent speakers from different faith traditions at a Sikh venue in Delhi, and IARF has printed the 1981 *Declaration* in poster form for distribution, including as a poster centerfold in the publication *"IARF World"*. In New York, the IARF consistently supports the NGO Committee on Freedom of Religion or Belief. IARF representatives attend these meetings regularly and are involved every year in planning activities to observe the anniversary of the *Declaration* in November. Two members of IARF worked as conveners on the topic 'Religion' for the UN Millennium Forum in 2000.

In reference to the UN-sponsored Madrid conference noted above, IARF's International Secretariat assembled a delegation of six persons, including three members with special expertise in education. Our researcher commissioned and carefully edited a booklet of eleven essays to inform delegates on the models and practice of religious education in schools from Asia, Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and the Americas. This booklet has been distributed at various UN and NGO forums. Finally, in 2002, the IARF held its triennial Congress in Budapest, Hungary. UN Special Rapporteur, Prof. Abdelfattah Amor, was the principal guest speaker and Prof. Kevin Boyle, Senior Adviser to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, served as a panel moderator.

5. Communications: The *IARF World* is a regular newsletter distributed to membership and other interested parties. It is published twice a year with 4,000 copies produced on each occasion. Specific articles commenting on UN work in the period covered by this report (1999-2002) include:

- "IARF General Secretary Joins Special Rapporteur for UN Address," Issue #1, 1999
- "IARF at the UN in Geneva," April 2000
- "Revival of the NGO Committee on Freedom of Religion or Belief," and "20th Anniversary Remembered," (with poster pullout on Declaration) Oct. 2001
- "IARF Makes an Impact in Madrid," "Re-Launch of Geneva-based Committee on Freedom of Religion or Belief," and "20th Anniversary Remembered in India," March 2002

IARF's web site (at www.iarf.net) has a UN page reporting on activities at the UN in both New York and Geneva. A 'Global Issues' link also summarizes situations of religious persecution around the world with information gathered from reputable news sources and cited accordingly. These reports are updated quarterly.